



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 21, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.C.R. 53, S.D. 1 - STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AID TO THE STATE OF HAWAII FOR THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS STATE SERVICES TO MIGRANTS FROM THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION NATIONS; DEEM MIGRANTS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERALLY FUNDED FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE; AND PROVIDE DIALYSIS AND CHEMOTHERAPY CENTERS IN MICRONESIA AND ALL AREAS WITHIN THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION NATIONS.**

Hearing: Thursday, April 21, 2011, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.C.R. 53, S.D. 1, is to strongly urge the United States Department of the Interior and the United States Congress to provide additional federal aid to the State of Hawaii for the provision of various state services to migrants from the Compact of Free Association nations; deem migrants eligible to receive federally funded financial and medical assistance; and provide dialysis and chemotherapy centers in Micronesia and all areas within the Compact of Free Association Nations.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports this resolution. Providing funding for services to citizens of the

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

Compact of Free Association nations is a federal responsibility which has been shifted to the states with significant consequences.

Due to its proximity to the Compact of Free Association nations, Hawaii has experienced a significant economic burden not shared by other states from this national commitment to provide opportunities and services agreed to by the United States government. The amount of funding provided by the federal government does not begin to compensate for the costs absorbed by the State of Hawaii.

The cost to DHS alone to provide medical, financial, housing, and other social services to Compact citizens was over \$51.3 million in FY 2010. This included \$33 million for medical assistance, \$14 million for financial assistance, \$3.8 million for housing assistance and over \$439,000 for other social services.

Citizens of nations that are party to a Compact of Free Association (COFAs) with the United States, i.e. Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, are considered non-immigrants and are ineligible for Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) federal financial assistance. As a result, services to Compact citizens are mostly fully state-funded. An exception is that COFA children and pregnant women have since become eligible for federal medical assistance under the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Providing improved access to and scope of services available in the member nations of the Compact may allow a number of people who come here solely for the purpose of receiving life-saving treatments, such as dialysis, to remain in their country.

Increasing federal aid to provide services for the citizens from Compact of Free association Nations is long overdue.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Date: 04/21/2011

Committee: House Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 053, SD1 (SSCR1283)

STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AID TO THE STATE OF HAWAII FOR THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS STATE SERVICES TO MIGRANTS FROM THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION NATIONS; DEEM MIGRANTS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERALLY FUNDED FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE; AND PROVIDE DIALYSIS AND CHEMOTHERAPY CENTERS IN MICRONESIA AND ALL AREAS WITHIN THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION NATIONS.

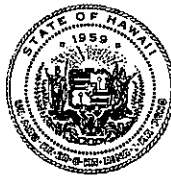
Purpose of Resolution: (none)

Department's Position: The Department supports this resolution.

In recent years the number of Compact of Free Association (COFA) students enrolled in public schools has risen sharply from approximately 6,162 in 2007 to 9,076 in 2011. Using the FY2009-10 average per pupil spending of \$11,695, the Department estimates that the approximately 9,076 COFA students enrolled this year will cost the State approximately \$106 million.

Any federal support to off-set the fiscal impact to the Department would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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April 19, 2011

To: The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Date: Thursday, April 21
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

From: Mila Kaahanui, Executive Director
Office of Community Services
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

Re: SCR 53/SR27- Strongly Urging The United States Department Of The Interior And The United States Congress To Provide Additional Federal Aid To The State Of Hawaii For The Provision Of Various State Services To Migrants From The Compact Of Free Association Nations; Deem Migrants Eligible To Receive Federally Funded Financial And Medical Assistance; And Provide Dialysis And Chemotherapy Centers In Micronesia And All Areas Within The Compact Of Free Association Nations.

Good Morning Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Jordan and members of the committee, my name is Mila Kaahanui, Executive Director for the Office of Community Services (OCS) in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. OCS serves the state as the coordinating office for Low-income Persons, Immigrants, and Refugees. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Since you have considered the House version, which is substantially the same, we would simply like to reiterate our support for the measure.

OCS is taking steps in the community to assist all Immigrants, including Micronesians, by supporting non-profits who provide acculturation, job placement, and other economic supports. Federal dollars prioritized for these populations would allow us to provide additional measures to assist people in their journey toward self-sufficiency.

Again, in your discussions with the Federal government, we ask you to consider collaboration with State agencies to provide meaningful data and dialogue. We believe it is through partnerships at all levels that true solutions will emerge. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. John Mizuno, Chair

Conference Room 229
April 21, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

Supporting SCR 53 SD 1.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. Our members employ more than 40,000 people throughout the state, delivering quality care to the people of Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 53 SD 1, which urges agencies of the federal government to provide more financial assistance to the State of Hawaii to pay for services provided to migrants of Compact of Free Association (COFA) nations.

COFA agreements allow citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Republic of Palau to travel freely to the United States, and thousands of them now live in Hawaii.

An estimated 7,500 low-income COFA migrants living in Hawaii are covered by the State's Quest health plan, which is paid solely by the State without federal matching funds. COFA migrants also receive other State services, such as financial assistance, housing, social services, and education, which total more than an estimated \$100 million annually.

The federal government provides \$30 million in annual subsidies and grants to states and territories with COFA migrants, \$10 million of which is distributed to the State of Hawaii annually. That amount is grossly inadequate to pay for the services provided by the State to COFA migrants.

SCR 53 SD 1 seeks to increase federal financial assistance to Hawaii. This resolution also seeks to keep COFA citizens who need dialysis and chemotherapy in their home countries by establishing treatment centers there.

For the foregoing reasons the Healthcare Association supports SCR 53 SD 1.

From: Hardy Spoehr [HSpoehr@papaolalokahi.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 6:30 AM
To: HUSTestimony
Subject: FW: Testimony: SCR 53, SD1

Testimony: SCR 53, SD1, Strongly urging the United States Department of the Interior and the United States Congress to provide additional federal aid to the state of Hawai'i for the provision of various state services to migrants from the Compact of Free Association nations; Deem migrants eligible to receive federally funded financial and medical assistance; and provide dialysis and chemotherapy centers in Micronesia and all areas within the Compact of Free Association Nations.

Thursday, April 21, 2011
10:30 am
Conference Room 229
State Capitol

Aloha. Papa Ola Lokahi (POL), the Native Hawaiian Health Board, strongly supports this measure. Whether we are Native Hawaiians or not or Islanders from these nations, we are all island people. This is a complex issue but at the core it reflects a very simple principle – "If you break it, you own it." The United States Government took on the responsibility of trustee for the Indigenous Peoples of Micronesia after World War II. Subsequently, the US Government proceeded to destroy the homeland and the health of many islanders by conducting Atomic tests on their islands over a period of more than ten years. The fact that there is now a "Compact" in place for these nations which are struggling for their independence only magnifies the responsibilities of the United States to these people given the strategic importance of this area to the US military.

Further, POL would like to state for the record that it is critical that until the United States Government lives up to its responsibilities that the State of Hawai'i can not step back and not provide any needed and required health care services to individuals from these nations who are currently residing in Hawai'i and eligible for our Health Quest program. The former Administration's attempt to limit these services is not consistent with our values as island people and, indeed, our courts are in agreement. We would ask the current Administration to strongly support this position as well

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director
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Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 8:07 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR53 on 4/21/2011 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for HUS 4/21/2011 10:30:00 AM SCR53

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Olinda Aiwohi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/18/2011

Comments:

This is a bill or resolution that needs immediate attention, one that would help our migrant brothers and sisters to receive the medical assistance they are so deserving of. The Federal government owes it to them to help cure their medical woes, and not pass off their responsibility to the State of Hawaii. Studies have proven that that the high rate of cancer among the Micronesian and Marshallese people are the direct results of the testing done in and around the areas of these countries. The Federal government owes it to the people and we the tax payers should not have to carry the burden of high cost of medical procedures for the migrants that move to Hawaii for treatment. The Federal government should be fair and we should be asking for more money to defray the cost of these treatments that are so badly needed. Thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of the Federal Government. The testimonies of the American Cancer Society and the Hawaii Health Organization tell the story of just how much money Hawaii is burdened with in order to meet the cost of caring for our Pacific Rim Island people. The Federal Government is just paying 10 million dollars, and our bills are way over 100 million dollars. Maybe Obama's Health care bill will help. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.